Use of IA Aircraft by Alliance Air Lines

5351. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that old aircrafts of Indian Airlines have been used/being used by alliance airlines for their flights; and

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Alliance Air, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines is operating 12 Boeing 737 aircraft. These aircraft are maintained as per the procedure prescribed by the manufacturer and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (D.G.C.A.). The aircraft are put into operation only under the Certificate of Airworthiness issued by the D.G.C.A.

Telephone Cabling in Darbhanga District

5352. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone cables are being laid from Bahera to Baheri in Darbhanga District of Bihar ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Behera and Baheri are about 25KM (S) apart. Behera comes under the local area of Benipur (SDCC) exchange and the telephones are being provided as per demand on the local network. Baheri has a 128 P C - DOT exchange under Derbhanga SDCC. As such there is no necessity to lay cables between Baheri and Bahera.

[Translation]

Setting up of Railway Zones

5353. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of Railway Zones and Divisions at present in the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up certain new Railway Zones in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the norms fixed for setting up of these zones;

(e) the likely impact of the setting up of these zones/divisions on the functioning of the Railway;

(f) reasons for not selecting Ajmer as the Head-quarter of the newly created North-Western Railway Zone; and

(g) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on land, building and development heads while setting up the Headquarters of the New Railway Zone in Jaipur and the over all Budget provisions made for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are 9 Railway Zones and 59 Divisions on Indian Railways at present as under :

Railway	Divisions
1	2
Central	Bhopal
	Bhusawal
	Mumbai
	Jabalpur
	Jhansi
	Solapur
	Nagpur
Eastern	Asansol
	Danapur
	Dhanbad
	Howrah
	Sealdah
	Mughalsarai
	Malda
Northern	Allahabad
	Ambala
	Bikaner
	Delhi
	Firozpur
	Jodhpur
	Lucknow
	Moradabad
North-Eastern	Izatnagar
	Lucknow
	Samastipur
	Sonpur
	Varanasi
Northeast Frontier	Alipurduar
	Katihar
	Lumding
	Tinsukia
Southern	Bangalore
	Chennai
	Madurai

1	2
	Mysore
	Tiruchirappalli
	Palghat
	Trivandrum
South Central	Guntakal
	Hubli
	Hyderabad
	Secunderabad
	Vijaywada
South Eastern	Adra
	Bilaspur
	Chakradharpur
	Kharagpur
	Khurda
	Waltair
	Sambalpur
	Nagpur
Western	Ajmer
	Bhavnagar
	Mumbai
	Jaipur
	Kota
	Ratlam
	Vadodara
	Rajkot

*Nanded being set up.

Government has decided to set up eight new Divisions at Agra, Ahmedabad, Guntur, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Rangiya and Singrauli.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to set up six new Railways Zones as under :

		HQ
(i)	East-Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
(ii)	North-Central Railway	Allahabad
(iii)	East-Central Railway	Hajipur
(iv)	North-Western Railway	Jaipur
(v)	South-Western Railway	Bangalore
(vi)	West-Central Railway	Jabalpur

(d) New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(e) The formation of new Zones/Divisions is expected to provide relief to the heavily worked zones/divisions, improve accessibility and enable the administration to have an effective control over the compact zones/divisions leading to better service and customer satisfaction.

(f) The Advisors' Committee set up by the Board to examine the issue had recommended the location of the Headquarter of North-Western Zone at Jaipur.

(g) While the details of estimated cost are being worked out, the estimated cost provided in the Pink Book is Rs. 41.66 Cr. for land, Buildings and other development works, quarters etc. An amount of Rs. 5.24 Cr. has been provided for the year 1997-98

[English]

Upgradation of Posts

5354. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of Assistant Officers were upgraded in 1973 and 1980 in Indian Railways to Senior Scale;

(b) whether this upgradation was done mainly to give benefit to the stagnated group 'B' officers and commitment in this regard was given to the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the number of posts upgraded;

(d) the number of Group 'B' officers regularised against these posts;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in regularising the Group 'B' officers; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give the benefit to the Group 'B' officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) In 1973 and 1980, 220 and 382 posts, respectively, of Assistant Officers were upgraded to Senior Scale. These upgradations were inter-alia to facilitate larger induction of Group 'B' officers into Group' A/Jr. Scale.

(d) and (e) Only Group 'A' Officers are eligible for regular promotion to Senior Scale posts. Group 'B' Officers are first inducted into Junior Scale of Grouup 'A', whereafter they are considered for promotion to Sr. Scale, subject to their fulfilling the eligibility conditions for such promotion.

(f) Does not arise.

Nickle Plant

5355. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been importing Nickel;